AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the method comprising:

duplicating, at a third network element, a security association associated with a secure network connection between a first network element and a second network element, wherein a lookup of the security association associated with the secure network connection is not dependent on any destination address; and

in response to detecting failure of the second network element, replacing the second network element with the third network element in the secure network connection with the first network element, wherein the secure network connection between the first network element and the third network element is based on the duplicated security association.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10 further comprising sending at least one secure message from the third network element to the first network element to notify the first network element that the secure network connection will be taken over by the third network element.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining secure network connections, the method comprising:

configuring a plurality of security gateways such that a lookup of security associations is not dependent on any destination address;[[and]]

sharing a security association among the plurality of security gateways;

a first of the security gateways detecting failure of a second of the security gateways involved in a secure connection with a network device, wherein the secure network connection is associated with the security association; and

in response to detecting the failure, the first security gateway sending a message to the network device that the first security gateway is taking over the secure network connection.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein a lookup of security associations is not dependent on any destination address.

15. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The first security server according to claim 22, wherein communications between the mobile client and the first security server are based on a security architecture for the internet protocol (IPsec).

18. – 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

during life of the secure network connection between the first and second network elements, the third network element receiving information relating to the security association of the secure network connection from the second network element.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first network element is a mobile client, and the second and third network elements are security servers.

22. (Previously Presented) A first security server comprising:

a transceiver to receive information relating to at least one security association of a secure network connection between a mobile client and a second security server; and

a processor module to:

monitor operation of the second security server;

in response to detecting failure of the second security server, send a message to the mobile client that the first security server is taking over the secure network connection; and

communicate with the mobile client using the at least one security association over the secure network connection between the first security server and the mobile client.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the first network element is a mobile client, and the second and third network elements are security servers.

24. (Previously Presented) The first security server of claim 22, wherein information relating to the at least one security association is duplicated at the first and second security servers.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein sharing the security association comprises sharing an IPsec security association among the plurality of security gateways.

26. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein replacing the second network element with the third network element in the secure network connection comprises the third network element sending a notification to the first network element that the third network element is taking over the secure network connection.

27. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

after replacing the second network element within the third network element in the secure network connection, the third network element communicating with the first network element without the third network element re-establishing another connection with the first network element.

28. (New) The first security server of claim 22, wherein the processor module is configured to communicate with the mobile client after taking over the secure network connection without re-establishing a new connection.